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VACAVALLEY RADIO CLUB

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VACAVILLE , CALIFORNIA **June 2016**

Current Events

June 4, 2016-The Jimmy Doolittle Center (Museum) will be open to the public on June 4. The public is invited to attend.

At 1030-am the newly acquired Vega aircraft will be unveiled.

Other exhibits include a Viet Nam combat helicopter, an airplane built by two teenagers in 1917, with "Snoopy" at the controls and other historic aircrafts.

This will also be a good opportunity for the VVRC board and members to meet Serrafina who is normally there on weekdays and explains with enthusiasm what the future plans are for the museum.

W9IMS
WHISKEY 9 INDIA MIKE SIERRA
2016 HISTORIC
100th Annual Running
Indianapolis 500 Mile Race
Sunday May 29 – ABC – Noon ET

THIS YEAR WE HAVE A SPECIAL FOUR-SIDED COMMEMORATIVE COLLECTORS QSL CARD JUST FOR THIS EVENT! QSL Info on QRZ.com

ARRL FIELD DAY
June 25-26, 2016
VVRC will set up operations at the Nut Tree Airport beginning at 0700 Saturday the 25th .

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The June VVRC meeting will be at Murillo's, 1591 E. Monte Vista,

VVRC MAY 2016 MEETING NOTES.

ZOMBIES, TIN FOIL HATS, & STUFF HITTING A FAN, OH MY!

The VVRC meeting for May was started with the pledge of allegiance instead of the gavel. There was a quick recap of last month's topics, primarily about our social media presence on Facebook and the VVRC web forum for special events. The web forum is designed to help keep your email inbox cleaned up and is a useful tool that is for VVRC to use. Think of it being eHAM.com for VVRC.

Field Day, Field Day, Field Day! June is here, see you there. For those that are Anti-Field Day, have fun on the WARC bands and / or doing the stuff you like to do. Field Day dates are June 25th & 26th. VVRC Location is at the Nut Tree airport in the field next to the parking lot that we use for the monthly meetings. Setup begins Saturday the 25th @ 7AM Local time & on the air by 11 AM

We will be working the event for the full duration including overnight. Gas grills are approved as well as generators. Both grills and generators must be kept on the paved areas due to fire risk. Our hosts for the field day location has stressed to us- no tents. They do not want to communicate camping overnight is OK as it is NOT OK for security reasons.

Tom KE6MDM, Thank you for the reminder for the June Social Meeting, as of this transcription, the June social meeting will be at Murillo's, 1591 E. Monte Vista, Thursday, June 9th at 7pm.

A reminder for August 6th, the Vacaville Farmers Market we will have a canopy up and manned. Frank KJ6RWQ, is the go to person for this event. This is to remind Vacaville residents we still exist, and hopefully bring in interested persons to the club and the Amateur Radio realm.

Continued on page 2------->

-------->**Meeting Notes Continued from Page 1**

A recognition to our guests for May's meeting:

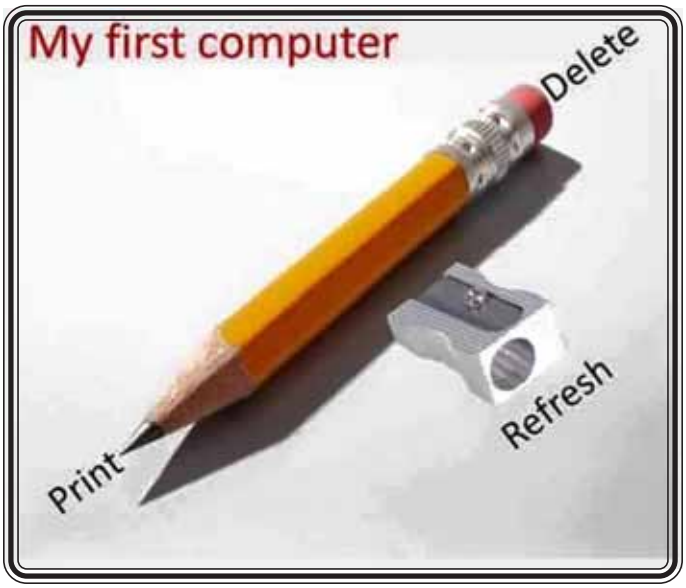
Bob Hawkins KM6BXZ
Joe Wheeler KK6UEM
Doug Norton KC7ADD
Kevin Stow N6VLF
Jim Nessen K6JWN

Thank you for coming to our meeting and we look forward to seeing you again at other amateur radio events.

A last minute presentation on Field Day, Emergency Communications, and SHTF (stuff hitting the fan) by Brian KK6BXP. The main thing to take away from the presentation is play it safe, smart, and avoid compromising situations that will will put you in a world of hurt, really quick.

And one more thing, Club President, Marcus KI6WDX, put forth an idea for "Ham Of The Year", which will be revisited in a future meeting.

73 & time for DX
KK6BXP



Do not worry about avoiding temptation.
As you grow older it will avoid you.
Joey Adams

NET CONTROL OPERATORS

1st week of month-Jerry Bowen, KJ6SCC
2nd week of month-Kim Ware, KJ6JNX
3rd week of month-Frank Garay, KJ6RWQ
4th week of month-Brian Hagen, KK6BXP
On months with 5 weeks-Bob Hewitt, K6HEW

Some Tech Notes

DX Engineering has brought back an old favorite, the clear glass antenna insulator for wire antennas. Furthermore, Spanish maker EAntenna Yagi and Dipole antennas are now available from DX Engineering.

LED Lighting continues it's practical advance. At the local home store, you can buy four foot long LED lights which replace conventional fluorescent fixtures of that size. In addition to having greater light output and lower power consumption, Tony, N2TK, reports on the RFI reflector that the fixtures he's tried are RFI-free in the ham bands. (RFI Reflector)

N3FJP has released a new version of his AC Log program. In addition, all of his contest logging programs have been released with improvements including API support. See the N3FJP website for more details.

"Open Wire Feed Lines" is the topic of the current (May 5) episode of the "ARRL The Doctor is In" podcast. Listen...and learn! Coming up on May 19: "Hunting Down Interference."Sponsored by DX Engineering, "ARRL The Doctor is In" is an informative discussion of all things technical. Listen on your computer, tablet, or smartphone — whenever and wherever you like!
If you've never listened to a podcast before, download our beginner's guide.

THE VVRC WELCOMES YOU

The Vaca Valley Radio Club has proudly served the Northern Solano County Area since 1988. We pride ourselves in providing a friendly place for radio amateurs to meet and improve their operating skills.

We participate in public service events throughout the year and are always ready to assist with communications during times of emergency.

Browsw our website for more information about our club. If you have any questions please e-mail us at w6vvr@w6vvr.net or call 707-448-5665 for assistance

The Repeater is Published by the Vaca Valley Radio Club, PO Box 143, Elmira, CA 95625-0143, An ARRL Affiliated Club. Founded 1987, Chartered 1988. General Meetings: 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM 330 Nut Tree Road, (Nut Tree Airport)

Wheelchair accessible

THE BIT BUCKET

A Rare Audion Vacuum Tube

An ARRL member from Virginia has donated a rare de Forest "round bulb" Audion vacuum tube to the League, which has paired the groundbreaking triode with a de Forest receiver of similar vintage. Walt Bain, W4LTU, recently wrote ARRL Headquarters to see if the League would give the antique tube a home. Radio pioneer Lee de Forest filed his first patent for the Audion in 1907, describing it as a detector of sound, and he is generally credited with having invented the vacuum tube. First used as the detector in the de Forest Audion Receiver, the Audion subsequently was heralded as the world's first electronic amplifying device. Bain, who is 86, said he inherited the Audion from his father, George Bain, a graduate of Wesleyan University in Connecticut in the 1920s, who went on to work for Westinghouse.

The de Forest Audion. [Bob Allison, WB1GCM, photo]

"In the 1930s he was chief engineer at Ken-Rad Tube and Lamp Company," Bain told ARRL. "He would have met de Forest anytime during college, at Westinghouse, or Ken-Rad." This particular Audion likely dates back to the early 1910s and appears to be a somewhat later version of the device that de Forest had submitted on his patent application a few years earlier. An intact Audion such as this one is considered extremely rare.

ARRL Letter for May 12, 2016

W9IMS

WHISKEY 9 INDIA MIKE SIERRA

2016 HISTORIC

100th Annual Running

Indianapolis 500 Mile Race

Sunday May 29 – ABC – Noon ET

THIS YEAR WE HAVE A SPECIAL FOUR-SIDED COMMEMORATIVE COLLECTORS QSL CARD JUST FOR THIS EVENT!

QSL Info on QRZ.com

(IMPORTANT: *IN ORDER TO QUALIFY FOR THE CERTIFICATE - SUITABLE FOR FRAMING - A STATION MUST WORK ALL THREE INDIANAPOLIS SPEEDWAY RACES IN THE SAME YEAR.* THAT IS, THE INDIANAPOLIS GRAND PRIX, THE INDIANAPOLIS 500 AND THE BRICKYARD 400)

33 CARS – 200 LAPS – 500 MILES

Last Year's Winner – Juan Pablo Mantoya

NEXT RACE

Brickyard 400 (July 18 – 24)

DON'T FORGET!! PUT IT ON YOUR CALENDAR TODAY!

Visit the Repeater online courtesy of Bob K6HEW at: w6vvrClub repeater in Vacaville:w6vvr.net 145.470 MHz(-) pl 127.3
The W6VVR net call is Tuesday evenings at 8pm on the club repeater. All are invited to participate in this weekly meeting on the air. 73!
Additional local repeaters
WV6F-224.200 (-127.3)
WV6F- 440.025 (+ 127.3)

"QRQ LID"

By Cory GB Sickles,WA3UVV

A few months ago, I saw an article about something called CW Academy" A wonderful outreach program from CWops, CW Academy is a series of Skype sessions with small groups that help encourage CW operation and higher proficiency - especially in the area of head copy."

I've been a ham for over 40 years. One of the downsides of learning CW at 5 WPM is the tendency to copy on paper. Even as one goes up to 10, 13, and 15 and so on - the tendency to write everything down is a difficult habit to break. If you hope to get your speed up to 25+, it's a necessity, though.

Better than learning the sound of characters over and over again at different plateaus, it's better to learn the sound of CW at your ultimate target speed, with longer interstitial spacing at the beginning. Then, as your proficiency increases, the spacing decreases. Eventually, you'll stop hearing letters and begin to hear words - the same way we read printed text.

I highly recommend CW Academy to anyone who genuinely wants to increase their skills and have more fun with CW. I also want to publicly thank Jerry Weisskohl, AC413T, and Val Bruce, WD4EXI, for the extra effort they put into these sessions and their positive examples of the amateur spirit.

One fateful weekend, my assigned homework included the directive to make a certain number of contacts with participants in the ARRL DX contest. As those who know me are aware - I am not a contester. As of late though, I have had some interest in giving contesting the old college try. Thinking that this homework assignment might be a good opportunity, I gathered some courage and made an attempt. Perhaps I could enjoy contesting and a new aspect of amateur radio would be opened up to me. Sadly, I now dislike contests more than ever.

To be sure, participating - on such short notice - in a DX contest when you aren't DX, gives one pause. As my "comfortable" code speed at that point was 20 WPM, I know that's slow (for a contest). As the exchange (calls, RST, State/Province) is short, I hoped that at least some folks would slow down to 20 for a moment and give me a contact - at least allowing me to complete my assignment.

I listened in as the contest started. Trying to patiently join in, my calls went unanswered. "OK," I thought, "Maybe the start of the contest is too intense with folks communicating at 30, 35, and 40+ WPM to be bothered with slowing down for little old me.' I waited and tried very late at night and into the early morning (EST). Not much better, as those calling CQ preferred to go back to stations calling them at the higher speeds. I was definitely feeling that I'd been set up for failure.

Calling CQ on my own did elicit a few responses at 40+ WPM, but when I was able to go back to them at 20, they had already disappeared. Alternately, I had several stations tune up on top of me. Nice.

I shut things down and felt like giving up. Instead, I tried again Saturday night. Still, no joy. Sunday afternoon brought my next opportunity to work some stations in earnest. A theme of being ignored, long carriers on my frequency- many times followed by someone else calling CQ instead - and some (very) high speed responses followed.

I did listen long enough to copy (after progressive attempts) those call signs. I am tempted to list them, but as I can't include those who simply ignored me, the list would be incomplete and so I won't. If I can't call out all of you, I won't do it at all. The person who stood out the most was the one who simply sent "QRQ LID." For those not

in the know—"QRQ" suggested I speed up, while "LID" denoted that I was a poor operator. I've never been referred to as a lid, but after 40+ years, apparently someone thought I was due.

I will mention one outstandingly positive ham, though. Along with the ARRL CW DX contest, the Novice Rig Roundup and "normal" QSOs were ongoing. As I was about to pack it up for a third and final time, I heard a slower CQ. While not the challenge I was after, I gave him a call.

For the next quarter hour or so, I had a thoroughly enjoyable conversation with Bob Null, N4QR. We probably could have continued our leisurely QSO for 30 minutes more, but alas, more contesters found the frequency we were on and the QRM killed any hopes of that. I signed with Bob and hit the big switch.

I am still working on increasing my CW speed and proficiency. Not so I can participate in contests, I just want to be able to have some enjoyable rag chews - at a faster pace.

I know that the object of contests is points and awards and all that. I know that there are many contesters out there with better manners - who will see a slower op as an opportunity to Elmer. I know there are those who are willing to encourage someone less experienced, even if it means just one contact in the same time as they could have had two. Perhaps if I had been running higher power, on different bands, at different times of day/night, or any number of other variables had been in play - I would have had an enjoyable contest experience. Maybe if I had been sending "just a little bit faster," I would have been deemed "acceptable" to those on my short list.

Also, it wasn't just "poor, poor, pitiful me" out there. I listened to a few other, slower stations trying to get a contact - "trying" being the operative word.

Walt Disney is quoted as saying "everything speaks" - meaning that everything that is associated with your business is a function of marketing. Dirty windows, overflowing trash cans, and unprofessional staff - it all kills your marketing. On the other hand, a smile, positive attitude, and some basic maintenance to your stock and shelves do wonders for the bottom line.

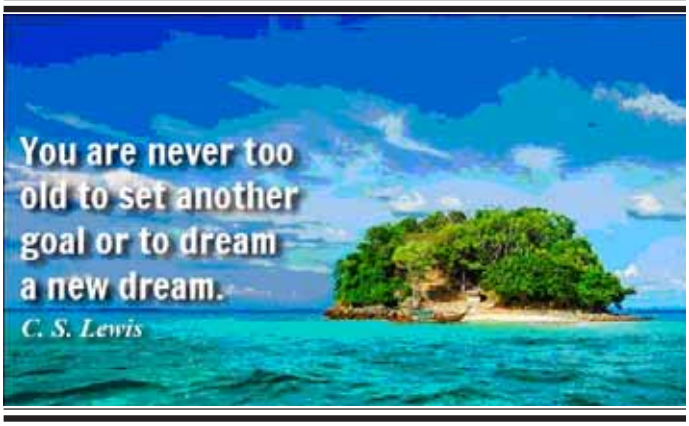
Amateur radio isn't a business, but it's a pursuit we all should be enjoying and trying to encourage others to join in. "QRQ LID" and likewise exclusionary behavior is the equivalent of walking into a store with half the lights off, first seeing noticeable signs about no refunds, no personal checks and more negativity - while some guy in a tee shirt stands in the rear doorway holding a donut and coffee and yells "Can I help you?" up front. Me? No thanks, I was just leaving.

By sharp contrast are the Elmers associated with CW Academy and the Straight Key Century Club (SKCC). This group's mission is to encourage CW operation at slow speeds and the use of straight keys - working to help other hams get on CW and increase their skills - on air.

A popular watering hole frequency for SKCC operation is 7114 kHz. Another is 7122 kHz. Both are in what's considered remnants of the "old" Novice sub-band on 40 meters. Not everything there is at 5 WPM, mind you. Lots of exchanges are ongoing at 10, 15 or better. The common theme is straight key operation (no electronic paddles) and the attitude of encouraging and supporting other hams.

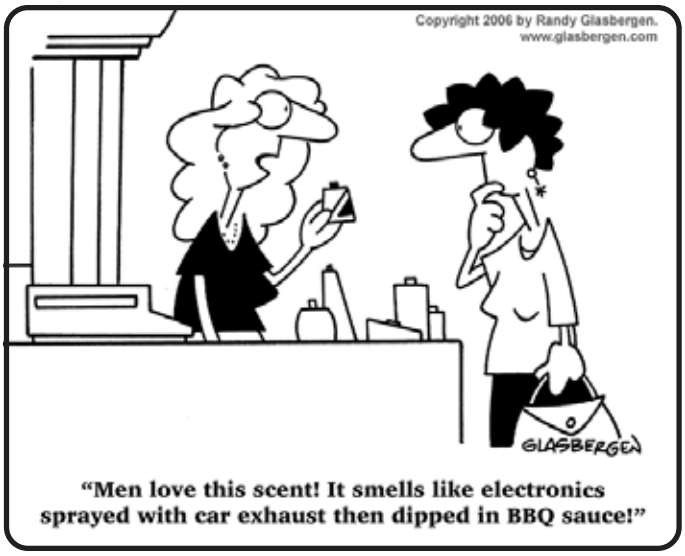
Positive PR is something we all need to concern ourselves with - and endeavor to improve - every day. We especially need to be mindful when we are on the air. You never know when someone is giving a demonstration - exposing another ham to a new mode or aspect of this fascinating hobby. It's something we need to be mindful of when off the air too. Every person at a club meeting, hamfest or other gathering is an ambassador for amateur radio. How they behave toward a newcomer (or old timer) is a how that person will perceive the whole of "hamdom" - or at least your club. Yes, I've written about this before, but it seems we still have some work to do.

There may always be those who discourage others and their efforts at self-improvement, but thankfully there are those who seek out opportunities to better the whole of amateur radio - one ham at a time. They're the ones who set us up for success. I don't know about you, but that's who I want to be when I grow up.



Society is like a stew. If you don't stir it up every once in a while then a layer of scum floats to the top.

Not all HAMS operate radio equipment.
But, there's nothing like a happy bunch like this anyway



"Men love this scent! It smells like electronics sprayed with car exhaust then dipped in BBQ sauce!"

Comments about ModernHam Radio

Excerpts from "Contest Robot" & "QRQ LID" comments show some discontent with current ham radio operating methods and ethics.

"It seems that contesters aspire to constrain the domain of information exchange to the minimum required to make a contact, and strive to have ever-more machine-like precision in our requests and responses. We strive to take the variable human part OUT, and go faster." **Brian N9ADG**

In 2005, Ward, N0AX, posited that "it's going to take a long time before machine- and human-copy signals can mix it up together to the point of a human not realizing that they are communicating with a machine."

"Who is operating whom?"

"In the context of amateur radio contesting, have we already crossed that boundary? Where does the assistance end and the operator begin?" **Cory GB Sickles,WA3UVV**

For me who was first licensed in the 1950s and away from ham radio for over 50 years after1960, the improvements in how we operate, contesting and Dxing, using computers with ham radio and on and on has left me considerably confused.

Age has slowed my learning skills although I don't feel that should be an excuse for laziness in studying and learning.

One of the best aids I have found is a free downloadable PDF *"Ethics and Operating Procedures For The Amateur"*

http://www.hamradio-operating-ethics.org / files / 36-Eth-operating-EN-IARU...

For my part I have a lot of studying to do and the table of contents easily direct you to the subject you want to learn.

Jerry Bowen, KJ6SCC

VACAVALLEY RADIO CLUB, INC.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

Please Print & Fill in Completely

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Name: _____ Call Sign_____

Street:
_____

City: _____Zip:
_____

Phone: (_____) _____-_____OK to Publish ?(_____)

License Class: _____ ARRL Member ?(_____)

E-Mail
Address_____

FAMILY Member (Spouse or Children)

Name: _____ Call Sign_____
License Class: _____ARRL Member ?(_____)

Name: _____ Call Sign_____
License Class: _____ARRL Member ?(_____)

MEMBER Dues _____$25.00

Each Family Member _____$ 2.00

Student _____$5.00

Repeater/Autopatch donation_____

Call/Name badge_____$11.00

Paid by CASH:/Check #_____

DATE: ____ _____ ____

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Mail to : Vaca Valley Radio Club, PO Box 143, Elmira, CA 95625-0143